PATRICK BAYOU
Deer Park, Harris County, Texas

SITE STATUS SUMMARY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 6)
EPA ID#: TX0000605329
State Congressional District: 25
Site Status Summary Updated: October 30, 2003

SITE DESCRIPTION

Location: The site is located in a mixed urban, highly industrialized petrochemical area in southeast Harris County north of Deer Park, Texas (population 27,652-1990 Census).

Setting: Patrick Bayou is one of several small bayous of the Houston Ship Channel (HSC) located within the lower portion of the San Jacinto River Basin. This 3-mile tidal bayou is on the south side of the HSC about 2 miles upstream of its confluence with the San Jacinto River. The Site consists of contaminated sediments within Patrick Bayou, a portion of the East Fork tributary, and associated wetlands. Patrick Bayou is bounded by and receives discharges from Occidental Chemical, Shell Refinery, Shell Chemical, and Lubrizol Corporation. The bayou also receives effluent via ditches from the City of Deer Park wastewater treatment plant and an air separation plant, Praxair, Inc.

PRESENT STATUS AND ISSUES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently performing enforcement activities to identify and compel Potentially Responsible Parties to perform and finance the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) currently being planned for the Site. The purpose of the RI/FS is to determine the nature and extent of contamination and to gather sufficient information about the Site to support an informed risk management decision regarding which remedy is the most appropriate for the Site.

WASTES AND VOLUMES

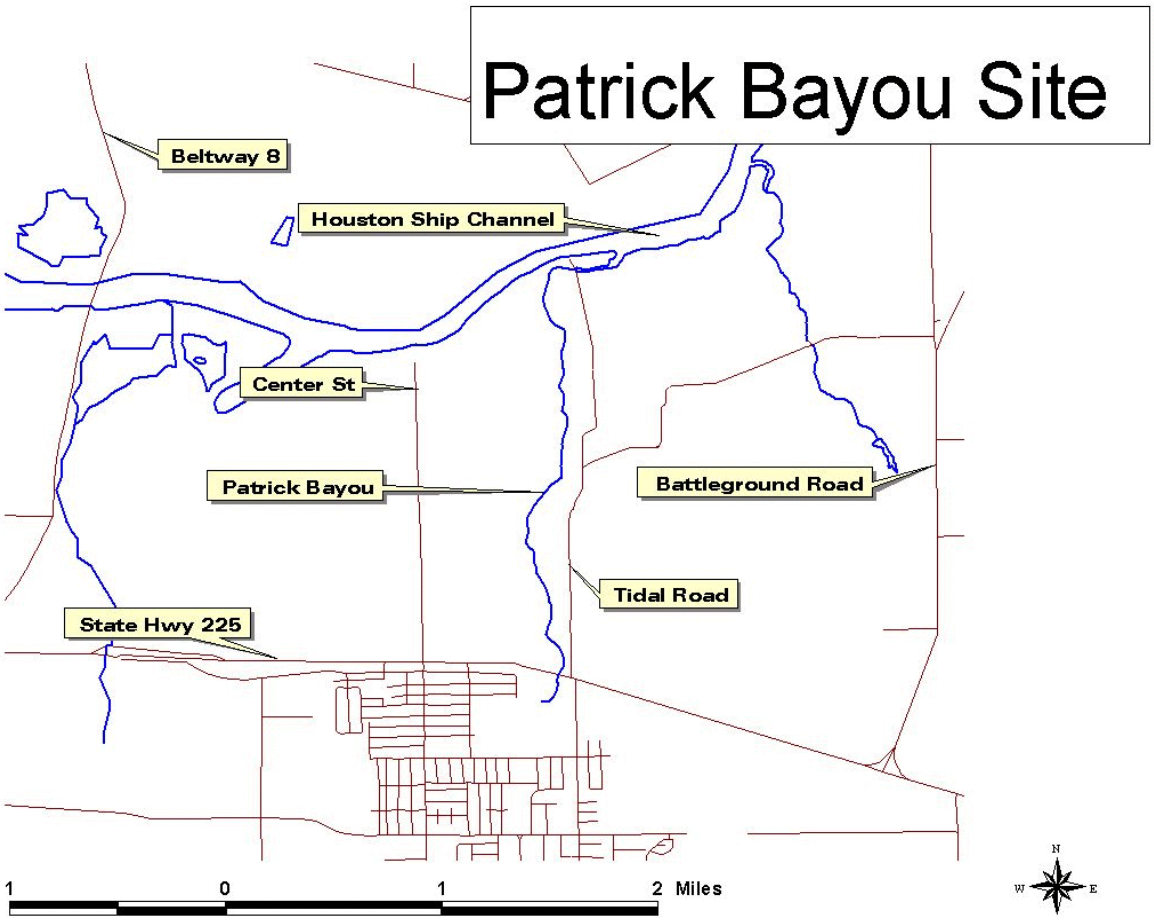
Principal Pollutants: Previous investigations confirmed the presence of the following chemicals in Patrick Bayou sediments: chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, zinc, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), bis-2-ethylhexyl phthalate, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Volume: The volume of pollutants will be determined during the RI/FS.

SITE ASSESSMENT AND RANKING

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Site HRS Score: 47.83
Proposed Date: June 14, 2001
Final Date: September 5, 2002

SITE MAP AND DIAGRAM



SITE HISTORY

- 1993-1994: Studies were completed by the City of Houston that investigated wastes accumulating within the Houston Ship Channel and its tributaries from nearby petrochemical plants and accidental shipping spills.
- July 1994: Follow-up investigation jointly sponsored by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission [TNRCC] (now the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality[TCEQ]) Region 12 Office and the EPA Region 6 Office confirmed initial findings and greatly expanded the area of documented contamination.
- March 2000: The TNRCC collected samples as part of a Screening Site Inspection (SSI)
- January 2001: A Hazard Ranking System Documentation Record was published documenting that Patrick Bayou was eligible for listing on the National Priorities List (NPL).
- June 14, 2001: The Patrick Bayou Site was proposed to be listed as a Federal Superfund Site on the NPL by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- September 5, 2002: The Patrick Bayou Site was added to the NPL as Superfund Site.

ENFORCEMENT HISTORY

The EPA issued General Notice Letters (GNLs) to several Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) on October 10 , 2002. The GNLs notified the PRPs of their potential liability that they may incur or may have incurred with respect to the Site. The GNLs also notified the PRPs of the potential response activities at the Site which they may be asked to perform or finance at a later date.

HUMAN HEALTH AND ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT

A risk assessment will be performed to determine whether site contaminants pose a current or future risk to human health and the environment in the absence of any remedial action. Included in this assessment will be an identification of contaminants of concern, an assessment of exposure to those contaminants through finalization of the site conceptual model, an assessment of the toxicity of those contaminants, and a characterization of risk. This characterization will provide a basis for determining whether remedial action is necessary at the site, describe for which exposure pathways remediation is necessary, and provide justification for performance of remedial actions. Included in this assessment will be characterization of risks to both human and ecological receptors.

RECORD OF DECISION (ROD)

The final remedy (cleanup alternative) for a site is published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is the official documentation of how the EPA considered the remedial alternatives and why the EPA selected the final remedy.

A ROD Has Not Been Signed For The Site

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Relations Plan: Not yet developed
Open houses and workshops:
Formal Proposed Plan Public Meeting:
Citizens on site mailing list:
Constituency Interest:
Site Repository: Patrick Bayou
Deer Park Public Library
3009 Center St.
Deer Park, TX 77536

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) provides money for activities that help the community participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites. An initial grant up to $50,000 is available for any Superfund site that is on the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), proposed for listing on the NPL and a response action has begun. More information about the TAG program may be found at http://www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/tag/faqs.htm. If you are interested in applying for a TAG, please call Ms. Beverly Negri (TAG Coordinator) at (214) 665-8157 or toll-free at 1-800-533-3508.

Availability Notice: September 19, 2002
Letters of Intent Received:
Final Application Received:
Grant Award:

CONTACTS

EPA Project Manager:	Gary Baumgarten, baumgarten.gary@epa.gov	(214) 665-6749
Site Attorney (EPA):	Anne Foster foster.anne@epa.gov	(214) 665-2169
Community Involvement:		
TCEQ Project Manager:	Subhash Pal spal@tceq.state.tx.us	(512) 239-4513
Regional Public Liaison (EPA):	Arnold Ondarza ondarza.arnold@epa.gov	1-800-533-3508 or (303) 312-6777

BENEFITS

- The investigation and cleanup of the Site will ensure the protection of human health and the environment. Specific cleanup benefits will be identified during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study currently being planned for the Site.